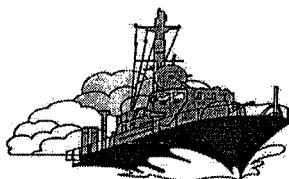




**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Jacksonville District

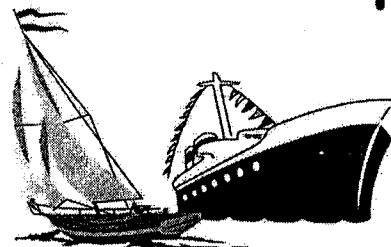


904-232-2116

NOTICE TO NAVIGATION INTERESTS



In reply refer to:
CESAJ-CO-OM
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019



CESAJ-CO-OP (1130)

17 November 2003

NOTICE TO NAVIGATION INTERESTS

KISSIMMEE RIVER NAVIGATION CHANNEL

1. Mariners are hereby notified that the extreme drawdown of Lake Tohopekaliga (Toho), which was postponed in January 2003 due to near record rainfall in the Kissimmee Basin, has been re-initiated. Lake Toho will be slowly lowered to 49.0 ft NGVD by 15 February 2004 (as of 17 November 2003 the water level in Lake Toho is 54.3 ft NGVD). Lakes Kissimmee, Hatchineha and Cypress will be slowly lowered to 49.0 ft NGVD by 15 February 2004 (as of 17 November 2003 the Lakes Kissimmee stage is approximately 50.3 ft NGVD). From 16 February to 1 June 2004, Lake Toho may be lowered to 48.5 ft NGVD and Lakes Kissimmee, Hatchineha, and Cypress may be lowered to 48.0 ft NGVD to provide water to downstream lakes or the Kissimmee River.
2. Beginning 1 June 2004, Lakes Toho, Kissimmee, Hatchineha and Cypress will be managed in an attempt to return them to their existing regulation schedules by 1 September. During this period, releases from these lakes may be made to provide water to downstream lakes or the Kissimmee River. However, the releases will be limited so that the lakes are generally allowed to rise. The rate of these lakes refilling will depend on rainfall. Under normal conditions, Lake Toho should return to its normal regulation range by fall 2004.
3. Adverse impacts of the Lake Toho extreme drawdown will include a temporary decrease in navigability in Lake Toho and other lakes down through Lake Kissimmee resulting in decreased boater access to the lakes from their perimeters. These impacts will begin around mid-December 2003, with increased access beginning sometime after refilling commences in June 2004. Access in the main bodies of Lakes Toho, Kissimmee, Hatchineha and Cypress will be impacted as lower water levels will limit recreational boating. However, the proposed


drawdown stages for Lakes Kissimmee, Hatchineha and Cypress are at or relatively close to the low pool (end of May) stages in the existing Lake Kissimmee regulation schedule.

4. The lock structure at S-61 normally permits passage of vessels with a draft of less than 6 ft. The lock has invert elevations of 43.0 feet NGVD. During the proposed drawdown, and for sometime after refilling commences in June 2004, there would be times when water levels at the lock are low enough that the available navigational depth through the lock is reduced to approximately a depth of 3 feet.

5. It is possible that during the Lake Toho extreme drawdown or refill periods there would be a temporary decrease in navigability on the restored section of the Kissimmee River between S-65A and S-65C.

6. Beginning 1 September 2004, Lakes Toho, Kissimmee, Hatchineha and Cypress will be regulated according to their existing regulation schedules.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


John F. Adams
Interim Chief, Construction-
Operations Division